

A collaborative ambient research and monitoring program in the southern Strait of Georgia

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A joint GVRD/DFO/NRCan collaborative project is in progress to help understand the importance and relative contributions of the various types of natural and anthropogenic particulate, organic and contaminant discharges to sediment conditions and biota in the southern Strait of Georgia. The project began with an examination of historical trends and data sources for contaminants and biota in sediments from the Strait (Burd, Johannessen, MacDonald, Yunker 2003). The project is continuing with deployment of sediment cores, grabs, moorings, water column measurements and multi-beam bathymetric surveys to examine time-lines and trends in chemical and biotic indicators. Data collected to date are providing insight on sources and subsequent transport patterns of materials in sediments, and contributing to mass balance estimates of substances of extreme concern such as POPs.